



December 2017

Xavier's Residency Program: Mentoring, Coaching and Classroom Learning



The Norman C. Francis Teacher Residency Program at Xavier University of Louisiana prepares teachers to positively impact student achievement in high-poverty schools, ultimately creating a more just and humane society in New Orleans and beyond.

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

- December 15: Deadline for preparation providers to submit budgets for 2017-2018 High Cost Needs grant
- December 20: deadline for preparation providers to complete February regional meeting [survey](#)
- January 1: Deadline for preparation providers to [submit extension requests for program approval](#)
- January 16: Deadline for districts to submit budgets for 2017-18 Believe and Prepare Formula Funds for mentor and resident stipends
- January 17: *Changes to Child Care Background Requirements and How it Will Affect Universities Webinar*
- January 23: BESE considers extension requests
- March 1: Child Care Criminal Background Checks will go into effect for all early learning centers

BELIEVE AND PREPARE UPDATES

TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM APPROVAL

The teacher preparation program portal opened on November 6, 2017. Providers can now submit extension requests, as well as assurances of alignment to updated policies and proposals to offer an innovative residency design.

Alignment, Extension and Innovative Application resources/links:

- Access to the [portal](#)
- The [how-to-guide](#)
- The [program approval webinar](#)
- A [survey](#) to indicate your interest in a support opportunity (due Friday, December, 15, 2017)
- Updated [Teacher Preparation Transition Guide](#)

The online application portal for initial requests for current providers opened on December 11, 2017 for those providers who submitted a Notice of Intent to apply for an initial request.

Initial Application information:

- A [Notice of Intent](#) (NOI) for an initial application is due December 9, 2017.
- If a provider submitted a Notice of Intent, the Department will send that provider a link to the online application portal to submit the initial request application.

TRANSITION GUIDE UPDATES

The Believe and Prepare [Teacher Preparation Transition Guide](#) has been updated to address questions from the November regional meetings, as well as the recent LACTE meetings. Please refer to the FAQ section of the guide, which begins on p.12, for additional information. Updated topics addressed in the guide include:

- 80 Hours of Practice Required for Post-Baccalaureate Candidates
- Program Approval and Alignment Review Overview
- Yearlong Classroom Residency

REGIONAL SUPPORT MEETINGS

The Department staff will facilitate regional meetings for preparation providers throughout the 2017-2018 school year. These meetings will include updates on Believe and Prepare funding, policy, and transition processes, as well as opportunities for collaboration and discussion.

The February regional meetings will be held:

- Wednesday, February 21, 1:00-4:00 pm, north Louisiana*
- Thursday, February 22, 1:00-4:00pm, Alexandria, LA, LSU-Alexandria
- Friday, February 23, 1:00-4:00 pm, south Louisiana*

*exact locations TBD

We are seeking your input on regional meeting topics. Please complete [this survey](#) by **Wednesday, December 20** to indicate the topics you wish to see addressed at the meeting, and to RSVP.

Please contact nicole.bono@la.gov with any questions regarding the regional support meetings.

MENTOR TEACHER TRAINING

Mentor Teacher training began the week of November 27, 2017. Nearly 500 mentor teachers across the state and faculty from several preparation providers took part in the first two sessions of this statewide mentor training. Materials from sessions one and two can be located on the mentor teacher [webpage](#). Preparation providers will be provided a list of attendees for mentor recruitment.

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with any questions regarding Mentor Teacher training.

BELIEVE AND PREPARE FUNDING

All 2017-2018 Believe and Prepare grants are allocated and accessible in eGMS.

- High-Cost Needs awards were allocated in October; the deadline for submitting the budget for this grant is **December 15, 2017**.
- Formula funding for districts to pay stipends to undergraduate residents and their mentors was allocated in October; the deadline for submitting the budget for this grant is **January 16, 2018**.
- A file has been uploaded to each district's FTP titled "district code_district name_2017-18_resident and mentor stipend allocations". This file contains details about the allocations and funding sources.

- Please refer to the [2017-2018 Mentor and Resident Stipend Allocation FAQ](#) for further details regarding the allocation.

In January the Department will complete a second data collection process to identify residents beginning their yearlong residency in January 2018, and to make any necessary adjustments to allocations. This process will be the same as the process utilized in August. Further details will be provided in the January newsletter.

Please contact nicole.bono@la.gov with any questions regarding Believe and Prepare grants.

NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

CHILD CARE BACKGROUND REQUIREMENTS

All university programs are invited to attend the Child Care Criminal Background Checks (CBC) webinar on Wednesday, **January 17 at 10:00 a.m.** Please use the following information to join the webinar:

Meeting Name: Changes to Child Care Background Requirements and How it Will Affect Universities

To join the meeting: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/cccbc/>

Audio Access: Toll access number (Toll): 1-646-307-1380, Toll free access number (Toll Free): 1-855-240-2575

This webinar will provide information regarding the launch of the new Child Care CBCs. The webinar will review changes in the background check requirements in [Bulletin 137](#) and how the Department will implement the changes. The webinar will describe what a new Child Care CBCs will consist of and how it will affect university programs.

For more information about Child Care CBCs, please email [Valerie Black](#).

EDUCATOR RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

On October 25, the Department released a [request for applications](#) from Louisiana institutions of higher education that are interested in serving as the housing institution for the Louisiana Educator Research Consortium.

On December 11, **the Department announced that Louisiana State University (Cain Center) and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette have been selected to co-chair the Louisiana Educator Research Consortium.**

Congratulations to these institutions.

For more information about the Louisiana Educator Research Consortium, please click [here](#).

Please email believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.

BELIEVE AND PREPARE: SUPPORT FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

On September 26, the Department released [Access to Full Preparation For Teachers in Rural Communities](#), a report highlighting the unique challenges of preparing teachers to teach in rural communities.

In response, the Department released a [request for applications](#) on October 24, 2017, seeking eligible school systems committed to piloting innovative approaches to increase access to high-quality, residency based preparation programs in rural communities that provide ample time for hands-on practice in the classroom with appropriate supports, including an expert mentor teacher.

The Department received 24 applications for this two-year grant opportunity and selected seven applicants to receive \$675,000 in grant funding. The seven selected school systems include those in Catahoula, East Carroll, Pointe Coupee, Richland, St. Landry, West Carroll and Winn parishes. Given the high level of interest in this work, the Department also invited the other 17 applicants to participate as *Community of Learning* school systems, which will also receive stipends.

All participating school systems will have support to develop deeper, more collaborative relationships with preparation providers.

To learn more about the Believe and Prepare: Full Preparation in Rural Communities grant opportunity, please click [here](#).

Please contact believeandprepare@la.gov with questions.